



REDEMPTION

CHURCH AT NEW HOPE

Position on Mode of Baptism for Membership

Redemption Church at New Hope affirms that baptism and the Lord's supper are the two ordinances Christ has given His church. Article 7, Section 2 of the Constitution of Redemption Church at New Hope states the follow: "God has ordained baptism to be a means of declaring personal union with Christ, the cleansing of sin, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:6:3-5; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Pt 3:21). Therefore, true disciples of Christ are the proper candidates for baptism."

As for the mode of baptism, we believe that immersion into water is the only accurate and proper way to communicate the meaning of baptism: death, burial, and resurrection. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4) On *Concerning Baptism* in the Redemption Church at New Hope Confession of Faith it states: "We believe that Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is baptized in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that it is to be done by immersion to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and our death to sin and resurrection to a new life." Therefore, based on such belief, immersion is the mode in which we baptize candidates for membership who have not yet been baptized, except in extraordinary cases of disability or physical impairment.

Notwithstanding, while baptism by immersion is irrevocably our practice in worship for the ordinance, we believe that the proper mode does not loom over the proper subject when it comes to eligibility for membership and characterization of a true baptism¹. Article 2, Section 2 of the Constitution of Redemption Church at New Hope states the follow: "Any person shall be eligible for membership in this church who professes repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, manifests a life transformed by the power of Christ, *has been baptized as a believer [emphasis added]*, expresses substantial agreement with the Confession and Constitution of this church, and is willing to submit to the church's government and discipline."

We believe that true baptism is a means of grace that provides an outward sign of the Spirit's inward work of regeneration to be undertaken by a believer as an act of obedience to Christ after conversion. A false baptism is one performed by a church that attributes the bestowing of grace in the act of baptism and/or one that precedes regeneration and conversion. The mode of baptism, therefore, refers to the form of administering the baptism (immersion, pouring, or sprinkling). The regular biblical mode of baptism is immersion as believed and practiced at Redemption Church; however, sprinkling or pouring, do not in themselves make a baptism false, only irregular. Therefore, in accordance with the Constitution and Confession of Redemption Church at New Hope, the elders will recommend to the congregation membership candidates who have received true baptism, even if the mode of baptism was done irregularly. And for those falsely baptized, these membership candidates will be required to undergo true baptism by immersion.

We, as the elders of Redemption Church at New Hope, will depend on the Holy Spirit to provide wisdom and discernment from the Scriptures in how to apply our baptistic convictions for church membership to each membership candidate.

¹ HAMMER, John S. "40 Questions about Baptism and the Lord's Supper." 160-161